



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAX-RETURN PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING FALSE RETURNS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., tax-return preparer pleaded guilty in federal court today to filing false tax returns that claimed deductions and credits to which her clients were not entitled.

Tina Christine Smith, 48, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to the charge contained in an April 4, 2005, federal indictment. **Smith** was employed by H&R Block as a tax-return preparer for approximately 10 years until 2003, and operated her own business, Doctor T Tax Service, out of her home until earlier this year.

“**Smith** used the lure of generous refunds to attract more clients in an effort to build up her business,” Graves said, “but ultimately, those clients suffered. They will have to repay more than \$100,000 to the government, plus interest and penalties, for tax refunds they weren’t entitled to receive.”

By pleading guilty today, **Smith** admitted that she assisted at least 14 individuals to file false and fraudulent income tax returns for the tax years 2000 through 2003. **Smith** prepared returns with improper expenses or losses that enabled her clients to receive greater tax refunds than they were entitled to receive. For example, Graves said, those fraudulent income tax returns claimed fictitious and/or inflated Schedule A expenses (such as medical expenses, charitable contributions, and job expenses); fictitious Schedule C losses (such as business losses); fictitious Schedule D losses (such as monetary loan losses, fictitious education credits, and fictitious and/or inflated child care expenses).

Smith prepared at least 37 separate false and fraudulent income tax returns, resulting in a tax loss of approximately \$108,962.

Under federal statutes, **Smith** could be subject to a sentence of up to three years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Roseann Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow